

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the patentability of all of the claims of the referenced application is solicited in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

The examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 10, 11, and 27-30 is acknowledged.

It is noted that claim 10 is dependent from claim 2 and claim 2 is dependent from claim 1. In order to place this application in condition for allowance, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the substance of claims 2 and 10 into amended claim 1.

It is noted that claim 11 is dependent from claim 2 and claim 2 is, in turn, dependent from claim 1. In order to place this application in condition for allowance, claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the substance of claims 1 and 2 therein.

Claims 20 and 21 have been amended to become dependent from amended claim 1. This should place these claims in condition for allowance.

New claims 31-33 have been added. These claims correspond directly to amended claims 20-22, except that they depend from claim 11 instead of claim 1. Since claim 11 is considered to be allowable, these new claims should also be allowable.

It is noted that claims 27-29 are each dependent from claim 2 and claim 2 is, in turn, dependent from claim 1. In order to place this application in condition for allowance, claim 27, 28 and 29 have been amended to incorporate all of the features of claims 1 and 2 therein.

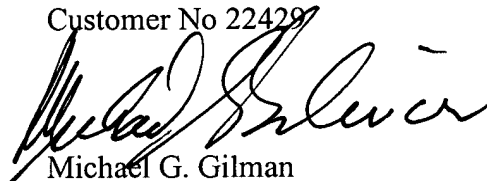
The dependency of the remaining claims has been considered and changed where needed. The claims have also been considered from a form perspective and editorially amended where needed to bring them into condition for allowance.

None of the amendments made herein introduce any prohibited new matter. Therefore, they should be entered. The amendments made herein are all directed to conforming all of the previously rejected claims to the allowed claims. Therefore, these amendments do not raise any prosecution history estoppel, but are editorial in nature.

Allowance of this entire application is solicited

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP
Customer No 22429

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Gilman", is written over the printed name.

Michael G. Gilman
Registration No. 19,114
Attorneys for the applicants

1700 Diagonal Road,
Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

(703) 684-1111 Voice
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile

Docket 041-2021

May 14, 2003

MGG/vgg